

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0547

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USNAVCOMSTA HAROLD E HOLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1527

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJ: BARNARD NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ADDRESS RECEIVES WIDE NEWS
COVERAGE

REF: CANBERRA 1497

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: NEWS ACCOUNTS OF BARNARD' S PRESS CLUB
SPEECH EMPHASIZE HIS REPORTED DESIRE FOR JOINT QTE
CONTROL END QTE OF NORTHWEST CAPE STATION. THEY ALSO CAST SOME
DOUBT ON BARNARD' S REJECTION OF PRESS SPECULATION THAT ALP
PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS WILL NOT RECONSIDER PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT
ON
JOINT FACILITIES. JOURNALISTS LIKELY ATTEMPT QTE TRAP END QTE
BARNARD IN APPARENT INCONSISTENCIES OF STATEMENTS MADE
MARCH 15 AND PREVIOUS BARNARD STATEMENT SAME SUBJECT. END
SUMMARY.

2. ALL MAJOR AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS PROVIDED FEATURE COVERAGE OF
BARNARD' S SPEECH TO NATIONAL PRESS CLUB MARCH 15. CONCLUSIONS
DRAWN BY PRESSMEN ARE VARIOUS. THEY DO, HOWEVER, ALL MENTION
BARNARD' S COMMENT IN ANSWER TO QUESTION THAT NORTHWEST CAPE
STATION SHOULD BE UNDER JOINT QTE CONTROL END QTE, WITH INDICATION
THAT QTE TOP PERSON OR NEXT IN CONTROL SHOULD BE AUSTRALIAN
END QTE. THEY ALSO MENTION BARNARD' S RESPONSE WHEN ASKED IF
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NORTHWEST CAPE COULD BE USED IN NUCLEAR WAR THAT QTE WE HAVE RECEIVED ASSURANCES IT WILL NOT BE USED IN THAT WAY END QTE.

3. WITH REGARD TO BARNARD DENIAL THAT PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT ON JOINT FACILITIES WOULD BE RECONSIDERED BY ALP PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS OR BY CABINET, FOLLOWING IS FULLER EXPLANATION TAKEN FROM TAPE OF QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD: BARNARD SAID THAT IN NORMAL COURSE OF CONSIDERATION, THE FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF ALP CAUCUS WOULD BE DISCUSSING PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT.

HE LINKED THIS DISCUSSION WITH HIS PROPOSED TRIP TO THE U. S., LEAVING THE IMPLICATION THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT WAS NOT INTENDED TO RECONSIDER IT BUT RATHER TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO USE IT AS BASIS FOR QTE NEGOTIATIONS END QTE WITH USG.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH DENNIS ARGALLGN ADOD, EMBOFF HAS POINTED OUT NEED TO BE CIRCUMSPECT WITH REGARD TO USE OF WORD QTE CONTROL END QTE WITH REFERENCE TO U. S. FACILITIES (MEMCON ALREADY FORWARDED BY POUCH MARCH 15). IT WAS INDICATED TO ARGALL AT SOME TIME THAT USE OF WORD QTE NEGOTIATE END QTE IN CONTEXT OF BARNARD'S PROPOSED VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN JUNE WAS NOT ACCURATE SINCE HE WILL BE QTE CONSULTING END QTE UNDER ARTICLE 3 OF NORTHWEST CAPE AGREEMENT. WHILE IT PROBABLY INEVITABLE THAT NEWSPAPER REPORTS WILL USE WRONG TERMINOLOGY, WE BELIEVE GOA SHOULD NOT GIVE WRONG IMPRESSION WITH USE OF THESE WORDS IN PUBLIC.

5. JOURNALISTS ALSO TODAY RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF BARNARD'S PROPOSED VISIT TO NORTHWEST CAPE STATION ON APRIL 6 WHEN HE WILL BE EN ROUTE TO OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDONESIA. EMBASSY WORKING WITH CAPT. CUNNINGHAM (U. S. COMMANDER AT NORTHWEST CAPE) TO INSURE CONSISTENCY WITH USG POSITION IN ANY BRIEFING HE MAY GIVE

BARNARD.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY MAKING INQUIRIES OF ADOD AS TO WHAT BARNARD MEANT IN HIS REFERENCE TO QTE ASSURANCE END QTE THAT NORTHWEST CAPE STATION WOULD NOT BE USED TO SEND SIGNAL IN NUCLEAR WAR SITUATION. IT UNFORTUNATE THAT BARNARD TRYING TO RESPOND TO

PRESS QUESTIONS ON JOINT FACILITIES APPARENTLY LITHOUT PREPARED TEXT ON SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT. WHITLAM
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ON OTHER HAND, HAS BEEN VERY CAUTIOUS AND USES PARLIAMENTARY

STATEMENT AS BASIS FOR ANY RESPONSE HE GIVES TO PRESS ON THIS
SUBJECT. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE BARNARD MEANS TO IMPLY HE IS
SEEKING ANY MORE QTE CONTROL END QTE OVER NORTHWEST CAPE THAN
EXISTS AT TLO JOINT FACILITIES. BUT HIS STATEMENTS ARE MAKING HIS ROL
E AS SPOKESMAN FOR DEFENSE MATTERS
MORE DIFFICULT AND ENCOURAGES PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT ALP
POLICY.
RICE

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